

# Mangue language

**Mangue**, also known as **Chorotega**,<sup>[2]</sup> is an extinct Oto-Manguean language indigenous to Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica. The ethnic population numbered around 10,000 in 1981.<sup>[3]</sup> Chorotega-speaking peoples included the Mangue and Monimbo. The dialects were known as: Mangue proper in western Nicaragua, which was further subdivided into Dirian and Nagrandan; Choluteca in the region of Honduras' Bay of Fonseca; and Orotiña in Costa Rica's Nicoya Peninsula.<sup>[4]</sup>

The Oto-Manguean languages are spoken mainly in Mexico and it is thought that the Mangue people moved south from Mexico together with the speakers of Subtiaba and Chiapanec well before the arrival of the Spaniards in the Americas.<sup>[5]</sup>

Some sources list "*Choluteca*" as an alternative name of the people and their language, and this has caused some (for example Terrence Kaufman 2001) to speculate that they were the original inhabitants of the city of Cholula, who were displaced with the arrival of Nahua people in central Mexico. The etymology for the nomenclature "Chorotega" in this case would come from the Nahuatl language where "*Cholōltēcah*" means "inhabitants of Cholula", or "people who have fled". The region of southernmost Honduras known as Choluteca, along with Choluteca City, derive their names from this Nahuatl word. Choluteca was originally inhabited by Chorotega groups. Daniel Garrison Brinton argued that the name chorotega was a Nahuatl exonym meaning "people who fled" given after a defeat by Nahuan forces that split the Chorotega-Mangue people into two groups. He argued that the better nomenclature was Mangue, derived from the group's endonym *mankeme* meaning "lords".<sup>[2]</sup>

In Guaitil, Costa Rica, the Mangue have been absorbed into the Costa Rican culture, losing their language, but pottery techniques and styles have been preserved.<sup>[6][7]</sup>

Brinton<sup>[2]</sup> gives a list of Mangue words and phrases some of which are:

The Verb "to be,"

- I am, *cejo*.
- Thou art, *simuh*.
- He is, *neje sumu*.
- We are, *cis mi muh*.

Pronouns.

- saho*.
- My, *amba, mba*.
- He, *neje*.
- She, *neja*.

Phrases.

Mangue	
Chorotega	
Native to	Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica
Ethnicity	Mangue, Chorotega, Monimbo
Extinct	(date missing)
Language family	Oto-Mangue <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Manguean<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Mangue</b></li></ul></li></ul>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	mom
Linguist List	mom ( <a href="http://multitree.org/codes/mom">http://multitree.org/codes/mom</a> )
Glottolog	moni1237 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/moni1237">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/moni1237</a> ) <sup>[1]</sup>

*Koi murio*, It is already dawn.  
*Koi yujmi*, It is already night.  
*Koi prijpi*, It is already growing dark.  
*Susupusca*? How are you?  
*Ko' mi muya' i ku* ? And you, how are you ?  
*Camo kujmi umyaique, Nasi pujimo camo*? There is nothing new; and you, how are you ?  
*Gusapo*, Take a seat  
*Pami nyumuta*, The food is good  
*Ropia*, Come here  
*Uño* I See I  
*Mis upa'*? Where are you going?  
*Taspo*, Yes.  
*Tapame*, Be good.

Brinton also compares the color terms of Mangue and Chiapanec:

Mangue. Chiapanec.

Black, *nanzome. dujamä*.  
 White, *nandirime. dilimä*.  
 Yellow, *nandiume. nandikumä*.  
 Blue or Green *nandipame ndipamä*  
 Red, *arimbome. nduimä*

And a number of Nicaraguan and Costa Rican placenames that come from the Mangue language:

*"Nindiria (from ninda - shore, dirn, hill), Nakutiri (from naktu - fire, dirn, hill), Monimbe (ntimbu - water, rain), Nandasinmo (nanda - brook), Mombonasi (nasi - woman), Masaya, Managua, Namotiva, Norome, Diriamba, Nicoya, Oretina"*

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## Phonology

### Consonants

	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Plosive</u>	p	t		k	
<u>Affricate</u>		(ts)	(tʃ)		
<u>Fricative</u>		s			h
<u>Nasal</u>	m	n	ɲ		
<u>Flap</u>		r			
<u>Lateral</u>		l			
<u>Approximant</u>	w		j		

/t, k/ can have allophones [ts, tʃ].

Stop and fricative sounds /p, t, k, s/ can turn voiced [b, d, g, z] after nasal sounds.

## Vowels

Three vowels are noted /a, i, u/.<sup>[8]</sup> Allophones are also noted.

Sound	Allophone
/i/	[i], [ɪ], [e]
/a/	[a], [æ], [ɛ]
/u/	[u], [o], [ʊ]

## Notes

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2. Daniel G. Brinton. 1886. Notes on the Mangue; An Extinct Dialect Formerly Spoken in Nicaragua Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society , Vol. 23, No. 122 (Apr., 1886), pp. 238-257
3. <http://www.ethnologue.com/language/mom>
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7. Firestone, Matthew D.; Miranda, Carolina A. and Soriano, César G. (2010) *Costa Rica* (9th edition) Lonely Planet, Footscray, Victoria, Australia, page 276, ISBN 978-1-74179-474-8
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